

Cooroy mansion best in Australia

By DAMIAN BATHERSBY

A COOROY Mountain home recently named as the best on the Sunshine Coast has gone on to take national honours.

The 1100sqm split-level, pavilion-style home built by Noosa company Braeden Constructions was awarded National House of the Year Over \$2 million at the National Master Builders Association Awards.

It was the crowning glory for a magnificent home which took local, regional and state honours before the national awards held in the Great Hall of Canberra's Parliament House.

Braeden Constructions owners, Mick and Sally Devlin, had double reason to celebrate after their company was also named National Residential Master Builder of the Year.

Mr Devlin said the national honour for the luxurious home was a tribute to the skill of the team at SBT designs in Doonan and the tradesmen and professionals who worked on it – most of them locals.

"We were up against very stiff opposition from every state," he said. "Being the open category, there were some very expensive homes as our competitors.

"The award is judged on va-

lue for money, workmanship, design and technical difficulty. It is very satisfying that a Noosa builder, Noosa designer, Noosa engineer, Noosa contractors, and Noosa suppliers have been judged as the best in Australia.

"There were some 5000 entrants in the National Master Builders Association Awards this year. It goes to prove that Sunshine Coast trades are among the best in Australia."

Mr Devlin said it did not seem long ago that he drove up a rough cow paddock looking for a couple of pegs marking out the position of the home.

"While it looks nicely nestled on the hilltop now, it was quite steep and rocky to build on," he said.

"We had hundreds of metres of fill brought up from a big dam we dug below. This was to fill up the ground level to what it is today, a nice useable area at the front of the house.

"It's nice to come back and see it now; not as a building project but as a family home being lived in and enjoyed.

"I wish my father was still alive to have seen this, he would have been very proud. He was an old fashioned builder who still had his nail-bag on into his 60s.

"He taught me the value of hard work and honesty; and I



DESIGN HONOUR: This home built by Noosa company Braeden Constructions was awarded National House of the Year Over \$2 million at the National Master Builders Association Awards.



dedicate this award to his memory."

The other award was for the house, a 1100sq m pavilion-style construction of modern Queensland design on 16ha which won National House of the Year over \$2 million category.

"I would like to thank the

Lawson family for engaging us at the design stage, and working together with us to achieve the outcome we have," Mr Devlin said.

"Our thanks and congratulations to SBT Designs of Doonan, for designing such an amazing home. I would also like to thank all the contrac-

tors who worked on the project, especially my carpenters who have shown that the Sunshine Coast can produce as good or better built homes than anywhere in Australia.

"And I would like to thank my wife Sally, who runs the admin side of the business, for her hard work and support."

Security breached

THERE have been almost 50 security breaches at Queensland prisons since May, including one where ammunition was delivered to a bulk store run by inmates.

But Corrective Services Minister Neil Roberts says the important thing is that inmates are not escaping.

Mr Roberts confirmed the 47 security breaches, including one where ammunition was mistakenly delivered to Brisbane Correctional Centre's bulk store.

Mr Roberts said the recommendations of a security review completed in April were still being implemented.

Opposition corrective services spokesman Jarrod Bleijie said the breaches showed the government was not in control. – AAP

Unions in tax plea

PROCEEDS from the Federal Government's proposed new mining tax must be ploughed into social infrastructure in mining towns, a mining union said yesterday.

About 100 union delegates from across Queensland met in Brisbane to refine their stance on the tax.

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union national president Tony Maher said delegates want money spent on improving the social fabric of mining towns.

"There is an escalation in the level of violence and other social problems," Mr Maher said. – AAP.

Teenage robber tells of remorse for victims

A 15-YEAR-OLD robber spoke yesterday about how difficult it was to meet face-to-face with the mother of one of his victims who started sleeping with a carving knife at night.

The teenager, who was 14 at the time, wore rubber gloves, covered his face with a jumper and deepened his voice to appear more intimidating when he robbed a fellow student, who was home from school with bronchitis, in February.

The boy told the judge he thought he "found it difficult to speak" to his victim's mother but "looking back I feel like I've made some peace with them".

When the boy pleaded guilty to that robbery and another burglary in September, the mother of the other student shook as she described the effect the incident had had on her family.

"Even now if he's home alone he takes a large carving knife to the bathroom while showering," she said.

"He keeps a cricket bat at the ready. "After a couple of weeks of trying to

live in the house we decided to sell the house as we no longer felt safe.

"My daughter has our dog in her room even if I go to the shops."

The accused boy stole goods worth about \$3400 from two homes.

Crown prosecutor Lily Brisick said yesterday the mother was pleased to have received apologies from the boy during a youth justice conference.

"But she doesn't want the child to get away with just that," she said.

Judge John Robertson told the boy he should consider how he would feel if it happened in his mother's home.

"It sounds as though this was one of those moments where you foolishly allowed yourself, in what started out as a prank, to impress a group at school," he said.

The teenager told police he committed the first burglary "to prove himself to a peer at school who said he was too much of a pussy to commit such an act".

– RAE WILSON

Winning retreat

A LUXURY Sunshine Coast retreat has taken out a major award at the annual Queensland Tourism Awards.

Spicers Clovelly Estate, near Montville, won the New Tourism Development gong at the awards announced in Brisbane on Friday night.

Spicers Clovelly Estate was launched in July last year as an intimately unique retreat experience bringing a touch of France to the Queensland countryside. Comprising just 10 suites to ensure the highest levels of individual service are maintained, it offers old world charm where guests can be swept up in the romanticism of a European escape.



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